



STATE OF MICHIGAN

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING

K. L. COOL
DIRECTOR

February 25, 2004

TO: K. L. Cool, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

SUBJECT: Protection of Wolverines

Authority:

Section 324.40108 of Part 401, Wildlife Conservation, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, authorizes the Director to amend orders when the Department determines that animals are at risk of being depleted or extirpated.

Discussion and Background:

On February 24, 2004, a wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) was positively identified in Huron County, Michigan. While Michigan retains its nickname as the "Wolverine State," the historical existence of wolverines in Michigan remains a great source of debate.

For several years the wolverine was listed as "extirpated" under Michigan's endangered species regulations. In 1999 the wolverine along with the bison, woodland caribou, and prairie chicken were removed from the extirpated list.

The wolverine currently is an unprotected animal in the state of Michigan.

The source of the animal documented in Huron County is currently unknown, but it seems prudent to offer protection to this and any future occurrences of wolverines to protect these animals, to allow documentation of biological information, and, if possible, identify sources of the animal(s).

Recommendation:

We recommend that this Interim Order be issued to protect the wolverine in Michigan.

Rebecca A. Humphries, Chief
Wildlife Division

Alan Marble, Acting Chief
Law Enforcement Division

George E. Burgoyne, Jr.
Resource Management Deputy

I approve the staff recommendation.

K. L. Cool
Director

Date Approved

INTERIM ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR

Amendment No. 3 of 2004 to the Wildlife Conservation Order

Under the authority of section 40108, Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, being section 324.40108 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, I HEREBY ORDER that effective February 25, 2004, and remaining effective until July 25, 2004, the following section of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

9.3 Protected animals; unlawful acts.

Sec. 9.3. (1) Moose, wolverine, and all birds not defined as game, except those listed in section 9.1, shall not be taken at any time.

(2) Mute swans and bats shall not be taken at any time except as specified in section 9.1.

Issued at Lansing, Michigan, this 25th day of February, 2004.

George E. Burgoyne, Jr.
Resource Management Deputy

Acting for: K. L. Cool, Director